

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 01543-40921

Title: SABER HANDHELD RADIOS

Operation/Exercise Name: UPHOLD DEMOCRACY

Observed: 20 Sep 1994

Originator: G CO 2/2

POC: CAPT SMITH Commercial: (919)451-3448 DSN: 4553448

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

The use of Motorola "Saber" radios at the company/platoon/squad level greatly enhanced command and control without adversely affecting the basic combat load.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

By using the Motorola "Saber" handheld radio, unit leaders at the company level and lower were able to expeditiously communicate over extended distances, in excess of a kilometer, with no difficulty in a MOUT environment. Communications were generally instantaneous with all primaries being able to talk directly to one another. Overall communications was greatly enhanced, by a marginal addition of weight (2.3 pounds). Additionally, the radio fit in the pocket of a flak jacket. Battery life was on the average 36 hours of continuous use.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

The use of handheld radios at the company level and below greatly enhanced overall communications and control. Communications is generally quicker, in terms of both message transmission/reception and gear preparation. Additionally, the radio itself presents a significant improvement over the PRC-77 in the combat load.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

All companies should be issued and maintain an inventory of Motorola "Saber" handheld radios. At a minimum, the company commander and the platoon commanders should be able to communicate by this mode. PRC-77s should still be used as a backup, or primary means, depending on the situation. In any event, the Sabers should augment the company's communication assets. Additionally an adapter should be designed or acquired that allows for battery recharging by tactical vehicles in extended operations.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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